

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Locations are given according to Stadtplan von Libau (Lepaya), Generalstab der Luftwaffe, 1:10,000, 1941.

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Physical Characteristics

- Each resident of Lepaya received a pamphlet after World War II containing working instructions for the "voluntary work" program of clearing the ruins in the city. Each participant in the program was required to work 80 hours in his free time, without pay. These hours were recorded in a special booklet issued to every worker. Only those people who were afraid of the consequences, about 40 percent of the workers, appeared for work at the projects. Those who did not work received no fines.
- A photo was published in the Lepaya newspaper in late 1951 showing a projected four-story department and public institutes building to be located at the east corner of Graudu and Pasta Streets. The foundation of this building was so poor that eight pumps had to be used continually in order to keep the basement dry. A public bath was built in 1952 in Jaunlepaya on Jelgavas Street between Raina and Aldaru Streets. It was located on the north side of Jelgavas Street, the second building from Raina Street. Public baths were also located on Bērzu and on 21st of June Streets, in Veclepaya.
- There were four Baptist churches in Lepaya prior to World War II; only two were open for services after the war. One was the church located on the east side of Kursu Street (formerly Petera), between Siena Tirgus and Ružu Streets in Veclepaya, and the other was on the east corner of Baseina and Akmenu Streets, opposite the Teachers' Institute, in Jaunlepaya. The church in Veclepaya was a two-story stone building with its business entrance on Siena Street. A border guard unit was billeted in the Baptist church located on the east side of Stendera Street, between Imanta Sudmala and Pumpura (formerly Pasta) Streets, in Veclepaya. The church on Raina Street, between Lāču and Karļinie Streets in Jaunlepaya was also closed.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-2-

4. All three movie theaters of the city were located in Veclepaya. The Daile was the second building from the corner of Rožu Street, on the east side of Aleju Street. The Sarkanā Baka (formerly Palace) was located in the Stefanov Building on the east side of Graudu Street, between V. Dīka and Marijas Streets. The theater was located in the northern part of the building, and the Party Cabinet was in the southern part of the building. The only change in this four-story, blue-gray building was the removal of the paintings on the wall. The Uzvara Theater was located on the west side of Graudu Street, between Vitolu Street and Padomju Prospect.
5. The 15th of May Building, located at Rožu Square in Veclepaya, was changed to the House of Naval Officers. The largest stadium in Lepaya was the SSS (Workers and Guards Sports), a semi-military organization of the Latvian Social Democratic Party. The stadium was renamed Daugava. Velna Ciems was renamed Ziemeļu Priekšpilsēta (Northern Suburb) (D/C-3/4), but the old name was so popular that the Soviets called it Cort Ģerevpa. Līves Laukums was the square at the west end of Andreja Street in Veclepaya (I-4).
6. A housing administration was located at the corner of Apšu and Pupu Streets in Veclepaya.
7. The Baltija Match Factory occupied the entire length of Feniksa Street in Veclepaya. Most of the 500 to 600 of the workers at the factory were discharged in 1952.
8. A small radio repair shop, under the Lepaya Industrial Combine, was located at about 12 Liela Street in Jaunlepaya.

Transportation

9. Residents participating in the "voluntary work" program in 1947-1948 laid two new streetcar tracks between the railroad crossing at Baseina and Asaru (formerly Rudzu) Streets and along Baseina Street, between Raiņa and Brīvības Streets in Jaunlepaya (see sketch, pages 4-5). A new track was laid by way of Saules Muiza to the Naval Shipyard and from Lepaya to Grobina (N 56-32, E 21-11), a distance of about ten km. Komsomols in Lepaya built comfortable and modern streetcars in 1949-1950. These cars flew red banners, were painted white in front and blue in back, and were marked with the inscription "Komjaunietis". The three or four streetcar lines in Lepaya were marked by numbers. The fare was 20 kopeks.
10. The bus terminal, with its waiting room and ticket counters, was located in an apartment house on the east side of Siena Tirgus Square, in Veclepaya. Busses ran from Lepaya to Klaipeda (N 55-43, E 21-07), and the fare was 24 rubles; to Vainode (N 56-25, E 21-52) and the tuberculosis sanatorium at Bāta (N 56-27, E 21-55); to Durbe (N 56-37, E 21-22); to Skruna (N 56-41, E 22-04), Saldas (N 56-41, E 22-29), Dobeles (N 56-38, E 23-17), Jelgava (N 56-39, E 23-43), and Riga (N 56-57, E 24-05). The bus fare to Riga was 36 rubles. Busses also ran from Lepaya to Aizpute (N 56-44, E 21-36) and Kuldīga (N 56-58, E 21-56); and to Ventspils (N 57-24, E 21-34) by way of Medze (N 56-39, E 21-09) and Saka (N 56-52, E 21-12).
11. About 22 to 24 of the 32 taxi cabs in Lepaya were usually in operation; insufficient tires kept the remainder out of service. The main taxi stand was located at Rožu Square in Veclepaya. The cabs lined up on Liela Street, from Pumpura Street to the north. The fare was one ruble per km in town and two rubles per km out of town.

Communications

12. The number of people in Lepaya having private telephones increased considerably during the past few years. The telephone cost 25 rubles, and it could be installed for 100 rubles. The political reliability of applicants for telephones

S-E-C-R-E-T

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-3-

was not checked, so that telephones were installed rather quickly. The cost of long distance calls was not included in the 25-ruble monthly bill. A call to Nica (N 56-21, E 21-04) cost one ruble, 20 kopeks, and a three-minute call to Riga cost 15 rubles. No charges were placed on local calls, regardless of the number made. Calls were placed by asking a switchboard operator for the number. A particular noise, heard on local as well as long distance calls, indicated that the conversation was being monitored. People assumed that all calls were being monitored and therefore restricted their conversations. Public telephone booths were located at Rožu Square in Veclepaya and on Padomju Prospect at the former Marine School.

Economic Conditions

13. A haircut cost three rubles in Lepaya and at the Lepaya Ship Machine-Building Plant No. 29. A shave cost two rubles; most men shaved at home with Soviet-made razor blades. The poorest blade had a red wrapper, and the best blade was the Neva. A package of ten Neva blades cost about two rubles, 50 kopeks.
14. In addition to the three public baths open in Lepaya, the Nikolajs' Bath at the seashore was open in the summer. Tickets could be bought in advance to overcome the overcrowded conditions resulting from the use of these baths by military personnel. The price of a numbered bathtub for man and wife at the Berzu Street bathhouse was nine rubles an hour.
15. There were two laundries in Veclepaya and two in Jaunlepaya. A sheet could be laundered for one ruble; a shirt could be washed, starched, and ironed for four rubles; and a collar could be starched for one ruble, ten kopeks. A washing machine cost 630 rubles, but the restrictions on electricity permitted only a few to use them.
16. Members of the Sarkanais Metalurgs football team worked for several months of the year and spent the rest of the time training and playing games. They were paid 1,000 rubles a month.

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1. Comment: 30 kopeks as the streetcar fare in Lepaya.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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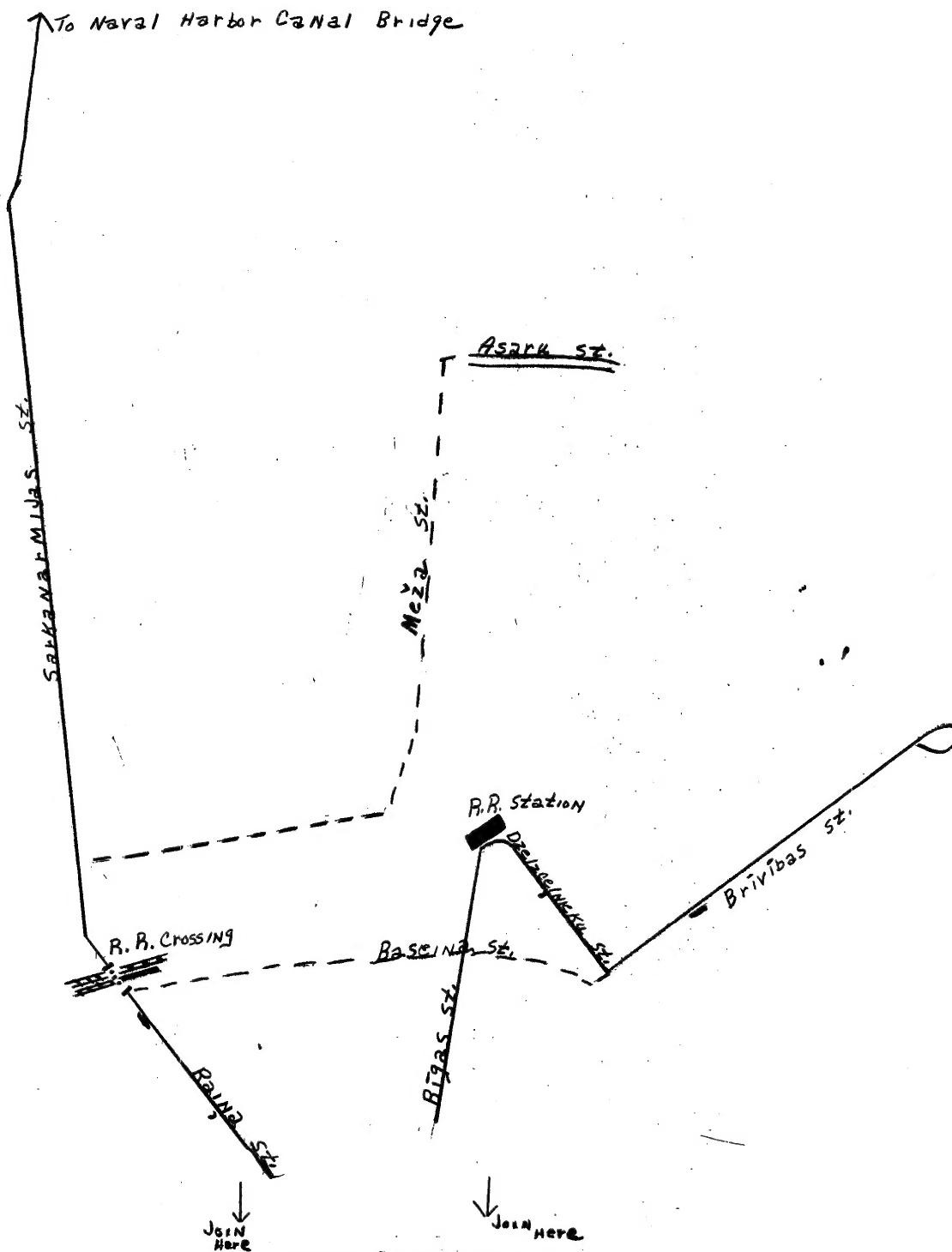
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-4-

Streetcar Routes in Lepaya

(Stadtplan von Libau (Lepaya), Generalstab der Luftwaffe, 1:10,000, 1941.)



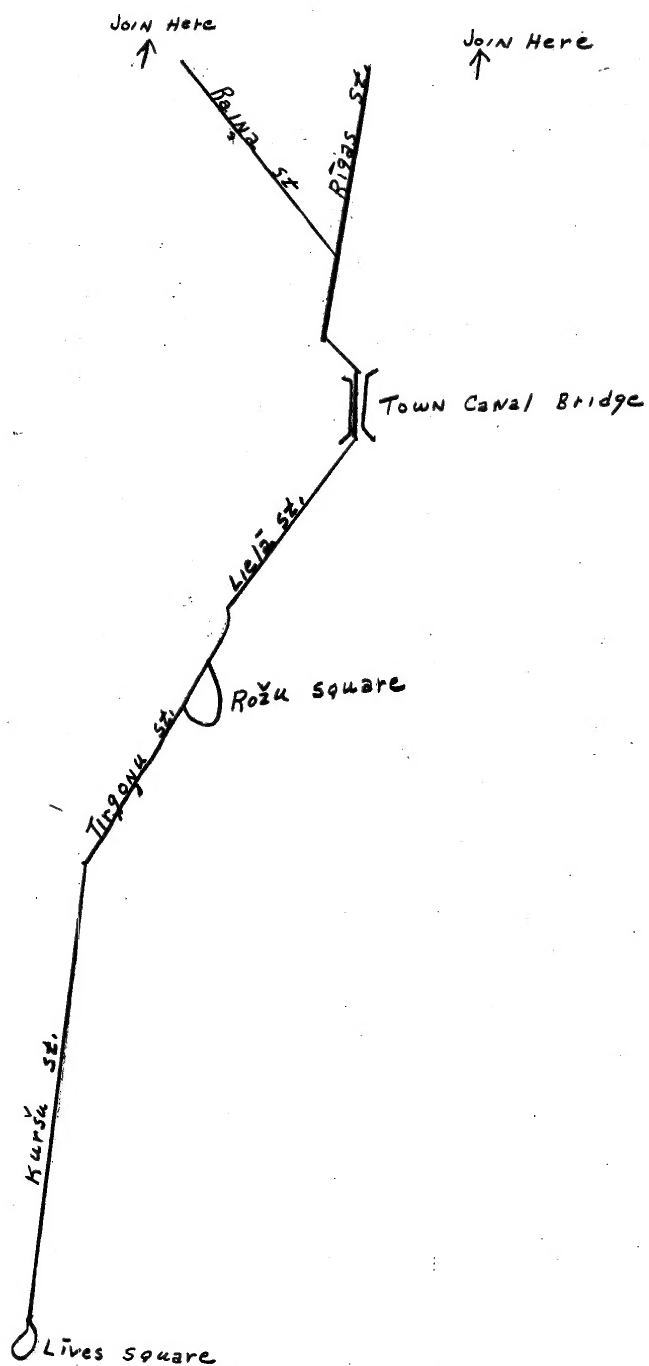
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25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-5-



- old tracks
- - - new tracks (built in 1947/48)
- siding

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